

**INFORMATION NOTE FOR APPLICANTS FOR INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION  
(REFUGEE STATUS AND SUBSIDIARY PROTECTION)**

**COMMENCEMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION ACT 2015**

Dear Applicant,

I refer to your current application for refugee status/subsidiary protection.

I am to inform you that new arrangements for the investigation and determination of applications for international protection (refugee status and subsidiary protection) and permission to remain in the State will be introduced in the International Protection Act 2015 (the 2015 Act) which is due to be commenced by the Tánaiste and Minister for Justice and Equality **on 31 December 2016**.

Under the 2015 Act, the Office of the Refugee Applications Commissioner (ORAC) is being abolished and responsibility for the investigation of applications for international protection is being transferred to a new International Protection Office (IPO) within the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service. The Refugee Appeals Tribunal (RAT) is being replaced by an International Protection Appeals Tribunal.

The 2015 Act contains transitional provisions dealing with (i) applications for refugee status and subsidiary protection lodged with ORAC and (ii) appeals lodged with RAT prior to the commencement of the 2015 Act.

**Insofar as it is required under the transitional provisions in the 2015 Act, we will be in touch with you in January 2017 if the new procedures in the 2015 Act will apply to your existing application or appeal. You may also be asked at that time to provide additional information to assist in the processing of your application. Please note that you do not need to take any action until you hear from us.**

In the event that you change your address in the meantime please advise us by contacting the Customer Service Centre, ORAC/IPO, 79/83 Lower Mount Street, Dublin 2.

This Note is being copied to legal representatives.

**Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service  
December 2016**